



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
Eastern District of California*

*501 I Street, Suite 10-100
Sacramento, California 95814*

*916/554-2700
Fax 916/554-2900*

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**ELK GROVE MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO CHARGES RELATING
TO IDENTITY THEFT**

SACRAMENTO - United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that James Wesley Brewer, Jr., 66, of Elk Grove, California, pleaded guilty today to federal charges involving his use of the identity of another Northern California man. Brewer entered his guilty pleas to three counts of misusing a social security number this morning before United States District Judge Morrison C. England.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Laurel D. White, who is prosecuting the case, Brewer had been charged in two counts with misusing the social security number belonging to a Roy T. Franklin of Union City, California. Brewer admitted that he used Franklin's identity and social security number to purchase a home in Vacaville, California and to open up a Wells Fargo Bank account in Sacramento. The Vacaville home had been available for bid through a program administered by the United States Department of Veteran's Affairs. In purchasing the home, Brewer signed VA forms and loan documents as Roy Franklin, using Franklin's social security number on loan and title documents. Brewer lived in the home with his wife and son until the company holding the mortgage foreclosed on the property because he failed to pay on the loan.

Brewer also pleaded guilty to a charge he misused a different social security number in connection with his application for electrical service for an Elk Grove residence in which he resided starting in November, 1998. At his change of plea hearing, Brewer admitted he used the name of Billy Reagan, an identity he created, with a fraudulent social security number, to apply for electrical service from the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) for the Elk Grove home.

Brewer also pleaded guilty to two counts of possessing fraudulent social security cards in the name of Billy Reagan and Roy Franklin.

The defendant is scheduled to be sentenced on December 2, 2003. He faces a maximum term of imprisonment of 5 years for each count of misusing a social security number and 3 year term of imprisonment for the possession charges. Brewer also faces a fine of \$250,000, a statutory assessment of \$100, and three-year period of supervised release for each count of conviction.

This case is the product of a joint investigation by special agents from the Social Security Administrations, Office of the Inspector General, and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

A copy of this press release may be found on the U.S. Attorney's Office's website at:
http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/cae/text_pressindex.htm.

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